

augment the vehicle's air bag based passive restraint system, which has the identical part number to that found on the U.S. certified 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E.

Standard No. 214 *Side Impact Protection*: Installation of reinforcement tubes.

Standard No. 301 *Fuel System*

Integrity: Installation of a rollover valve in the fuel tank vent line between the fuel tank and the evaporative emissions collection canister.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5109, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a) (1) (A) and (b) (1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: April 3, 1995.

Harry Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

North-South Center External Research Grant Program

ACTION: Notice—request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The United States Information Agency's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs invites applications from eligible institutions under the auspices of the North-South Center's 1995 Research Grant Program. The North-South Center is located at the University of Miami and is funded largely through a Congressional appropriation managed by the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Center's Research Grant Programs support select research activities which are of importance to the people and governments of the Western

Hemisphere. Through grant awards, the Center brings together human and technical resources to address major themes relevant to policy-making in the region.

Overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the grant awarded to the North-South Center by the United States Information Agency. The mission of the North-South Center is to promote better relations and serve as a people of the hemisphere.

The purposes of the External Research Grant Program are to support scholarship in various fields of research among institutions throughout the hemisphere, stimulate discussion of policy-relevant issues, and promote scholarship from which policy solutions may derive. Since 1991, approximately 150 External Research Grants have been awarded involving over 300 institutions throughout the hemisphere.

Short-term Field Research Grant Program on Migration and Refugee Issues: In response to increasing migration pressures in the region, the North-South Center seeks to further the state of understanding of the social, political, and economic impulses for and consequences of migration. Research initiatives concerning this theme can be investigated from a variety of disciplinary perspectives from within the social sciences and other relevant fields. Research proposals will be accepted from various disciplines to conduct research projects or field research which investigates contemporary issues in relation to themes such as the following: The formation, functioning, and consequences of transnational communities; the processes of return migration resulting from political reconciliation and democratization; the consequences of neoliberal economic reforms on international migration and return migration; new migratory currents within the Americas; and demographic changes brought about by migration.

ANNOUNCEMENT NAME: All communications with the North-South Center concerning this announcement should refer to the title of Research Grant Program on Migration and Refugee Issues.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: The External Research Grant Program requires that one original and nineteen (19) copies of final proposal, written in English, be received at the Office of Grant Programs, North-South Center by 5 p.m. Miami time on Friday, May 12, 1995. Please conserve paper by making copies double-sided. Documents sent by facsimile will not be accepted, nor will

documents postmarked on May 12, 1995 but received on a later date. It is the responsibility of each grant applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadlines. Project activities should begin no earlier than July 1, 1995 and should run no longer than December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Grant Programs Office where an applicant can obtain the application package, which contains submission deadlines. Draft and final proposals will be accepted only in the format requested in the application package and only until May 12, 1995. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the North-South Center will not inform the applicant on the status of his/her application—except to acknowledge its receipt—until after the Center's proposal review process has been completed.

Organizations/institutions/individuals should contact the Office of Grant Programs at the address listed below or by telephone at (305) 284-8951, facsimile (305) 284-6370, or electronic mail escott@umiami.ir.miami.edu to request a detailed application packet.

Application packets include award criteria not mentioned in this announcement, all necessary forms, and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific budget preparation information.

ADDRESSES: Twenty (20) complete proposals written in English should be received by the May 12, 1995 deadline addressed to: Mary Uebersax, Director of Grant Programs, North-South Center, 1500 Monza Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33146-3027.

To ensure timely delivery, a reliable courier should be used to envoy the project proposals. The Center will not reimburse the cost of such delivery.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Proposals from all parts of the world, except where prohibited by U.S. law that are consistent with the mission of the North-South Center and are of sound intellectual justification will be considered. Funding will not be authorized for any private for-profit institutions, profit-oriented individuals' initiatives, projects of a proprietary nature, or for projects of a partisan political nature. The applicant should be the project's principal investigator and should have completed advanced degrees and be affiliated with an institution. Pre-doctoral scholars are eligible to compete for the Program.

However, pre-doctoral scholars must currently be affiliated with an institution of higher learning and have the support of their research advisor or department chair to conduct the proposed research project. The Center and its External Grant Review Panel will not use political tests or political qualifications and will not discriminate in any manner whatsoever in selecting grantees.

Pursuant to the authorizing legislation of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

The recipient organization will be responsible for arrangements associated with the program. These include organization a coherent progression of activities, providing international and domestic travel arrangements for all participants, making lodging and local transportation arrangements for visitors, orienting and debriefing participants, preparing any necessary support material, and working with host institutions and individuals to achieve maximum program effectiveness.

Funding Limitations

The maximum award for this program is \$20,000. Support will include international travel expenses, domestic transportation, limited living expenses, and research and pre-publication expenses.

The grant awards should not be used in lieu of salary or to support projects which could be funded by private foundations or government. In addition, applicants are encouraged to seek supplemental funding for projects.

Successful projects will be funded by means of a cost reimbursement subcontract agreement between the North-South Center, the University of Miami, and the applicant's institution. All current policies and requirements that govern federal research grants will be applied to the grant award.

Guidelines

The Center gives priority to projects involving the collaboration of institutions in more than one country. The Program provides funding for projects that demonstrate a clear

analytical focus, a solid method to achieve research goals in a timely manner, and relevance to contemporary policy. Research activities should generate a product of enduring value such as a publication or a series of publications.

Proposals must be structured in accordance with the instructions contained in the application package. Confirmation letters from U.S. and foreign co-sponsors noting their intention to participate in the program will enhance a proposal.

Proposed Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive line-item budget for which specific details are available in the application packet. The Center does not pay for indirect costs or costs that are not directly related to the specific project being funded. No support will be given for the purchase or lease of capital equipment (e.g., facsimile machines, computers), or other related infrastructural costs. Some degree of institutional support should be reflected in the proposed project budget. It is not permissible to request support in lieu of responsibilities for university course instruction.

Review Process

Grants made through the North-South Center External Research Grant Program are awarded through a competitive review process. The Grant Programs Office will acknowledge receipt of all proposals, and the Center's Executive Staff will review every proposal for eligibility, completeness, and competitiveness. Outside reviewers with expertise in a particular subject area may be called upon to provide critique on proposals. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the application packet. All eligible and complete proposals will be submitted to the Center's Grant Review Panel, comprised of a multi-disciplinary group of distinguished experts from major university centers for Latin American and Caribbean Studies as well as Latin America specialists from the non-academic international community.

Review Criteria

Applications which meet the aforementioned technical requirements will be competitively reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. *Contribution to the field of study:* Proposals should demonstrate a distinct theoretical, political, or applied academic significance to the stated subject area. The outcome of the research endeavor should be useful and

applicable to the academic, government, and policy making and/or governmental sectors.

2. *Research cohesiveness and quality:* Clearly defined research hypotheses, including the specific questions which will be asked through this investigation, and an explanation of the means of testing and evaluating the research objectives should be provided. A detailed research agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive rigor and a logistical capacity to implement the work plan. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

3. *Clarity and focus:* Proposals should illustrate that the research has been sufficiently developed prior to the request for funding, to ensure that its aims are clear and specific. Proposals should clearly demonstrate the process by which the applicant will meet the program's objectives and research plan.

4. *Concrete and lasting impact of the investigation:* Proposed programs should strengthen enduring mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages. Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-up activity which insures that the Center's supported programs are not isolated events. Effective dissemination of the project's results should be planned to reach the widest possible and most relevant audience.

5. *Potential:* Proposals should demonstrate the potential for fostering cooperation and understanding among peoples of the region. Research output should provide clear and sound analysis of or tools for policy making.

6. *Applicant's "track record":* Applicants should demonstrate a history of successful programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past research grants, where applicable. The Center will consider the past performance of prior grantees and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

7. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program.

8. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project

component and a final report at the conclusion. Grantees must be willing to comply with evaluation requirements of the granting institution.

9. *Cost-effectiveness:* The administrative components of grants should be kept as low as possible. All other research costs should be necessary, appropriate, and justified in the budget narrative.

10. *Cost-sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private support as well as direct funding contributions (such as full-time salaries) from the home institutions.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in the RFP are binding and may not be modified by any North-South Center or

United States Information Agency representative. Explanatory information provided by USIA or the North-South Center that contradicts published language will not be binding. This RFP combined with the application packet which is obtainable by calling the North-South Center, constitutes the entire terms and conditions for application to this grant program. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Center. Programs and projects must conform with the Center's requirement and guidelines outlined in the Application Packet. The Center's project and programs are subject to the availability of funds. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been

made available through the U.S. Government's appropriation and contracting process and allocated and committed through internal North-South Center and University of Miami procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified in writing of the results of the review process. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: March 13, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Education and Cultural Affairs.

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